



# The Notes

## WELCOMING WEAKNESS

*What is the thorn in your side today?*

**July 11, 2021**

**Pastor Rich Falasco**

*“This boasting will do no good, but I must go on. I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord. I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago.*

*Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don’t know—only God knows <sup>Yes</sup>, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know <sup>that</sup> I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell.”*

*“That experience is worth boasting about, but I’m not going to do it. I will boast only about my weaknesses. If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won’t do it, because I don’t want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.”*

*“Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

**2 Corinthians 12:1-10** (NLT)

*“But if you fail to drive out the people who live in the land, those who remain will be like splinters in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will harass you in the land where you live.”*

**Numbers 33:55** (NLT)

What is the thorn in your side today?

Paul's list of weaknesses

1. *Insults* — when people think of clever ways of making your faith or your lifestyle or your words look stupid, weird or inconsistent.
2. *Hardships* — circumstances forced upon you, reversals of fortune against your will. This could refer to any situation where you feel trapped. You didn't plan it or think it would be this way, but there you are, and it's hard.

3. *Persecutions* — wounds, abuses or painful circumstances or acts of prejudice or exploitation from people because of your Christian faith or your Christian moral commitments. It's when you are not treated fairly.
4. *Troubles* — situations that cause pressure that feels crushing or weighed down; circumstances that tend to overcome you with stress and tension.

Something wonderful is waiting on the other side of weakness

### **What we can do when weaknesses arise**

1. Sit in the suffering.  
**Matthew 11:30 NLT**  
**Isaiah 40:29 NLT**
2. Seek to be ohe (Hawaiian for bamboo)  
Flexible but not breakable